

# **LOC- Legislative Proposal**

## **Increase MH/DD/SAS Crisis Services**

*Prepared by Research Division Staff, North Carolina General Assembly*

### Time line and events

*July 10, 2006-* **2006 Budget Act**

### **Area Authority and County Program Crisis Regions**

S.L. 2006-66, Sec. 10.26 ([SB 1741](#), Sec. 10.26) provided direction for the use of funds appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) for a continuum of regional and local crisis facilities and services for individuals with mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse addictions and provides direction to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary), the Department, and Local Management Entities (LMEs) as to how to proceed with development of these crisis services and facilities.

Funds appropriated for the 2006-2007 fiscal year are addressed in the following fashion:

- \$5,250,000 is to be allocated on a per capita basis and to be used for operational start-up, capital, or subsidies related to development and implementation of a plan for a continuum of regional crisis facilities and local crisis services (crisis plan).
- \$225,000 is designated for personal services contracts to provide technical assistance to LMEs to develop and implement the crisis plans.

The section directed the Secretary to "...designate between 15 and 25 appropriate groupings of LMEs for the development of regional crisis facilities" by no later than August 15, 2006. Area authorities and county programs are directed to work with consultants to identify gaps in their regions' crisis services and develop plans to address needs identified. Capabilities to be developed include the following:

- 24-hour crisis telephone lines.
- Walk-in crisis services.
- Mobile crisis outreach.
- Crisis respite/residential services.
- Crisis stabilization units.
- 24-hour beds.
- Facility-based crisis.
- In-patient crisis.
- Transportation.

Crisis regions demonstrating both a long-term need and the sustainability of facility-based crisis centers must attempt to secure services through existing community hospitals or facilities, where possible. If it has been determined that a region's crisis needs are being met already, then area authorities and county programs may use allocated funds to meet local crisis service needs.

**The section directed each LME to submit its crisis service plan to the Secretary no later than March 1, 2007 for review and approval.**

The section directed the LMEs to report to the Department and to the consultant on the following items on a monthly basis: the use of funds allocated; any reductions in the use of State psychiatric hospitals for acute admissions; and any remaining gaps in local and regional crisis services. The consultant and the Department then must report on a quarterly basis regarding each LME's proposed and actual use of funds appropriated under this section to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the Fiscal Research Division, and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services. These reporting requirements expire July 1, 2008.

*Department Action:*

*Summer 2006*

- Collaborated with LMEs to designate 15 regional groupings to plan development of regional facility based crisis services.
- Received inventory of existing crisis services by LME

*Fall 2006*

- Contracted with Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) to provide consulting assistance to LME for creating and implementing LME Crisis Service Plan. Contract is in effect through June 2008.

*January 2007*

- Submission and review of LME crisis Service Plans
- Allocation of Start-up funds for Crisis Services

*Summer 2007*

- Plan approval and Funding\* (At this time 20 of 26 plans were approved. During the first quarter of the 2007-08 fiscal year 5 of the remaining 6 LME plans were approved.)

*July 31, 2007- **2007 Budget Act***

**CRISIS AND ACUTE CARE SERVICES.**

**SECTION 10.49.(m)** The thirteen million seven hundred thirty-seven thousand eight hundred fifty-six dollars (\$13,737,856) appropriated in this act for crisis services in each fiscal year to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, shall be allocated to local management entities to continue to implement the crisis plans developed under S.L. 2006-66, Section 10.26. In allocating these funds, the Department shall consider the impact of the closure of any State institution on each local management entity. The Department of Health and Human Services may use up to two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in each fiscal year of the funds allocated under this subsection to extend its contract with the crisis services consultant authorized under Section 10.26(b) of S.L. 2006-66.